

*The Compleat Character*  
OF  
S<sup>r</sup>. **J. Fenwick**, Bar.

CONTAINING

An impartial History of his Family, Marriage, and all the most Remarkable Actions of his Life: With particular Reference to his Engagement in the Late

**HORRID PLOT,**

And Examination before the Parliament: And lastly, a True Copy of the Paper delivered by him to the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, on Tower-Hill, the Place of Execution, on Thursday the 28th. of January, 1697.

To all which is added,

**A Modest Address to Jacobites.**

*Oro quod hos faciant aliens pericula cautos,  
Pena Fenwici quod discant stare quieti.*

Cautious, by others Harms let them become;  
Learn to sit still, by Fenwick's doleful doom.

Printed with Allowance.

London, Printed and Sold by J. Bradford, in New-street, without Bishopsgate; 1697.





## The Compleat Character of Sir John Fenwick, Baronet, &c.

**T**HE Design of this Narrative, is not to despise or degrade any for their Transgression sake: They that have paid the price of their Blood, have satisfied the Law, &c. The intent therefore of this ensuing Treatise, is to observe what has been Virtuous and Laudable in the Conversation of Sir John Fenwick, to imitate it; and, by setting forth what hath been immoral, profligate, and wicked, to eschew, shun, and refrain it; lest following his Evil Examples, we come to make his shameful Exit.

*Fœlix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.*

Thrice happy they who others Harms beware,  
And shun those Paths that lead into a snare.

In prosecution of this my design, I shall begin with Remarks on his Family, which is very venerable for its Antiquity: The *Northumbrians* say as Antient as the Conquest; which they also report of *Killingworth* of *Killingworth* of the same County.

**FENWICK** is a Local Name, taken from *Fenwick* their antient Seat; and being a Parish is more of esteem, than *Thomas* at *Stile*, *John* at *Oke*, *Bertram* at *Bourne*, &c. for it is certain he was Lord of *Fenwick*.

**FENWICK** of *Fenwick* in *Northumberland*, was High-Sheriff in the time of King *Richard* the Second, and of *Cumberland* in the Reign of *Henry* the Sixth.

*Sir John*, the Subject of this Narrative, was the Son of *Sir William*, whose Father, *Sir John*, was made Baronet in the Year 1628. and bore for his Arms *Party per fes G. A. Six Marletts counterchang'd*. *Fuller*, in his *Worthies of Northumberland*, mistook, this Coat.

*Sir William*, and this late unfortunate *Sir John* lived not at *Fenwick*, but at *Wallington*, a brave Seat, where they had two Parks, One of *Red*, the Other of *Fallow-Deer*;

*Prisca hæc & pulchra sedes venaticus apta.*

And the Ground was so good about their Seat, that they are reputed to have had the best breed of Horses in *England*. A worthy Gentleman (whose Service for this present Government hath been considerable) informs us, That the late King *James*, in his Election of Officers, upon the late intended Designs of *France*, very well approved of *Sir John* for a Colonel of Horse; but could not think him so well qualified for another command. And indeed, as he kept a Breed of good Horses, so he was an excellent Horse-man himself.

The Family of the *Fenwicks* kept a Port and  
Hospitality



*Hospitality* equal, if not superiour to any *Knight*, *Baronet*, or *Baron* of the County; and bore such a sway as they might be termed *Reguli*, *Royteletts*, or *Kinglings*. There be those living that remember *Sir John's* Father going to Church with 60 Liveries attendant of Tenants and Servants.

According to the Worthiness of his Descent, *Sir John* was excellently well educated,

*Oh! fortunatos nimium, bona si sua norint.*

He wanted nothing to have made up a happy Life, and a like Exit: Being seated, as you have heard, in a pleasant Cline and fertile Soyl, where both his Corn and Wine increased, and where plenty surrounded him; yea, and being Blest, over and above all these Enjoyments, with a Loving, tender, and Loyal Wife; a Lady descended from the Honourable and Antient Family of the *Howards*: Her greatest Foes must needs acknowledge, that she is a Lady of Exquisite Perfections, and that she has merited eternal Renown, by her indefatigable Industry, in seeking the prolongation of her Husband's Life; even like the famous *English* Queen, not fearing to suck the Venom of the poysoned Dart out of her Husband's Body, tho' it had been with the peril of her own: Yet for all this, we see he is the last of his Family, and made a Lugubrious End, forgetting what both Reason and Learning taught him, *Beatus ille qui procul negotiis*, &c. saith the Poet, which the Learned *Cowley* accurately alludes to.

Blest be the Man (and Blest is he) whom ere  
 (Plac'd far out of the Roads of Hope or Fear)  
 A little Field, a little Garden feeds;  
 The Field gives all that frugal Nature needs:  
 The wealthy Garden lib'rally bestows  
 All she can ask, when she Luxurious grows.  
 The specious Inconveniences that wait  
 Upon a Life of Business, and of State,  
 He sees (nor doth the Sight disturb his Rest)  
 By Fools desir'd, by Wicked Men possess'd.

Mr. John Aubry, in his late Publish'd Book of  
 Miscellianies, says, To every Place there is a par-  
 ticular Fate; But I say, to every Man

Some have a lucky Hit;  
 Others miss of it,  
 And have a Bitter Bit:

Which is very well made out by the Tree of  
 Fortune, from which falls Crowns, Halters,  
 and Hatchets.

It were worth the while to have Sir John's  
 Nativity. He seems to me to have been born  
 upon one of those unlucky Days mentioned by  
 Mr. J. Gibbon, *Blewmantle*, in his *Day Fatality*,  
 Reprinted in part by Mr. Aubry aforesaid: For,  
 Sir John did (having no need) sell Wallington,  
 and his other Estates, part for Ready-Money,  
 and part for Annuity, that he might more  
 commodiously reside at Court to carry on French  
 Designs against his Native Country, for a  
 Prince ruling by an Arbitrary Power, banishing  
 his natural Subjects, (to whom he should have  
 been



been a Nursing Father) for only departing, in some matters of Faith, from his Idolatrous Worship.

Sir John would have done well to have remembered that *England* is (*Gens cui libera mens, & libera lingua*) a Nation of a Free Mind and Tongue, nay, and Free Hand too: A Nation that will, with all its Strength and Power, resist and oppose the Yoke of French Tyranny and Insolency, *Pro patriæ salute, cur non omnibus facultatibus quas habemus, utamur?* The French endeavour to make all things lawful that may conduce to their Interest: It therefore behoves the English, under the conduct of his Illustrious Majesty King *WILLIAM*, valiantly and courageously to defend their Rights and Privileges.

*Andrew Favine*, a French Author, confesses, That his Country-men never kept a Conquest long, because of their Insulting Arrogance; whereas the *English*, *Germans* and *Spaniards*, by their Humanity and Courtesie, keep their Conquests much longer, even from one Age to another.

It hath been observ'd by some, that (since the happy Revolution in *England*, Sir John has been very Audacious and Insolent in his Discourses and several Actions: for instance, such was his daring Confidence and Audacity, that when the first News that *Mons* was taken arrived to the Town, he very irreverently perkt up to the Queen's Coach, and rudely and hastily clapping his Hat on his Head, cry'd,

*Madam, Mons is taken :* A Rudebeck much taken notice of by that Royal Lady, of ever Blessed Memory; But whatever incited Sir John to this, and several other audacious Attempts, he himself informs us, That, in the Year 95, when some Treachery was contriv'd, and hastily push'd on against the Security of his present Majesty and happy Government, that he frustrated and stop'd the Proceedings of the same, partly by advising against it, and partly by delays; and this he used as an Argument to insinuate, that he was not concerned in the late horrid Plot, as himself calls it. But this assertion of his, I suppose, has no corroborating Evidence or Circumstances: But if we consult the Validity of the Evidence against him, we shall even find him involv'd in those base Treacheries which seemingly he expresses his abhorrence of.

Mr. F---r, in his Appeal to both Houses of Parliament, informs us, That he was once in Company with Sir John Fenwick, and Three others, at a Tavern in London, where Sir John, and the rest, signed an Address to the French King, the Contents whereof were,—To assure Lewis the Fourteenth, That they would remain Faithful and Loyal Subjects to King James, and his Successor the Prince of Wales; and that they would be ready on any occasion to join and assist the French Arms, with their Lives and Fortunes in England, against the Prince of Orange. They also paid all possible Thanks and Acknowledgments to the French King, for his great Kindness in succouring their most distressed Prince, and for raising him above the Malice of his Enemies.

This



This same Author, in his *Appeal*, further assures us, That Sir John was not only several times in Consultations with, and at the Meetings of divers of the late King's Party, in order to carry on their Designs against the present Government; but also that Sir John, in particular, gave the French and the late King James daily assurances of the Efficacy of his Interest in the Northern Parts of England. It being proposed that he should be joyned there with many others, in order to the raising a considerable Army near Scotland. Moreover, to confirm the Truth of all this, Sir John Fenwick was to act as a Lieutenant General, having from the late King James a Commission for the same, brought over by the aforesaid Mr. William Fuller, whose Intentions and Designs for the Service of this Nation are very Honourable; tho' at that time he was in the Service of the late King, &c.

It is very strange that Sir John under the plain Conviction of the aforesaid particulars, and well knowing that for a long time he had owed his Life to the Clemency of the present Government, should behave himself with that hardened Obstinacy, which he did under the Gentle and mild Dispensations of both Houses of Parliament; Sir John had that free Liberty and opportunity of making his Defence before such an impartial, and Honourable Tribunal, as few or none of his Quality ever before had.

I must here observe, that since his Embarking in the late King James's Cause, one continued Chain of Misfortune has, as it were link'd together

gather all his Actions and Enterprizes ; for no sooner, after great Expences and Trouble, was any Project formed ; but, in a manner the very next Moment it was Blasted, extirpated and overthrown ; nay, to compleat all his Misery (such is the Reward of Treachery) he was ever flouted and disrespected by the *French Court*, by reason, said a worthy Gentleman, his Promises were greater than his Performances. Sir John had well nigh, it's very probable, exhausted his Patrimony, and therefore it is less wonder that he was slighted by his old Master, and the *French King* ; for their Kindness and Respect is with the Teeth outwards ; *No longer Pipe* (as the old Proverb saith) *no longer Dance with them*. I shall conclude this with a Quotation out of *Horace*,

*Sunt queis dantur opes, ars ipsiis atque fruendi ;  
Ars hæc Fenwico tota negata fuit.*

*Some Riches have, and know 'em how to use ;  
Hard Fate to Fenwick did this Art refuse.*

I need not, I suppose, spend time in entertaining my Reader with Discourses of the late Horrid and detestible Plot, for which Sir John Fenwick is Executed, the nature of that being already sufficiently known ; it may suffice that Sir John, after some considerable time skulking in Disguise, was at length apprehended at *Rumney Marsh* in *Kent*, where he only waited for some Kind Owl to waft him over to *France*, the only Sanctuary for such Offenders. After his Apprehension



hension, he was conveyed to the *Tower*, from thence to *Newgate*, and was arraign'd at the *Old-Baily*, &c. But the High Court of Parliament sitting, they took upon themselves the Trouble of his Examination; in prosecution (to their Endless Honour be it spoken) of a loyal Resolution to search to the very Bottom of the late detestable and villanous Plot against his Most Sacred Majesty's Person and Government: With what Meekness, Candor and Equity they have discharged their Loyal Resolution, is sufficiently manifested by their daily printed Journal or Votes. In fine, on the 11th. Day of *January*, his Majesty in his Royal Robes, being seated in the House of Peers, gave his Assent to the Bill of Attainder against Sir *John Fenwick*. And on the 19th. of *January*, a Warrant was directed to the Sheriffs of *London* and *Middiesex*, for the Beheading Sir *John Fenwick* Baronet, on *Saturday* the 22d. of the same Month; In pursuance of which Order, Notice was given him to prepare for Death; But upon his Ladies humble Petition, His Majesty was graciously pleas'd to Reprieve him to *Thursday* the 28th. of *January*.

On *Wednesday* in the Evening, the Day before his Execution, several Bands of Souldiers were sent to stop all the passages to the Scaffold, to prevent, as much as possible, the vast Croud of People that was likely to be: the Scaffold was covered with Mourning, with several other preparations, &c.

Sir *John*, on the Day of his Execution, arose at Four a Clock in the Morning, and was private

vate until Seven : soon after which his Lady came to take her final Farewell of him. About Ten, he came out of *Newgate* into a Mourning Coach, and was receiv'd by the Sheriffs and the Guards, and conducted to *Tower-Hill*; in his passage he fix'd his Eyes upon a Prayer-Book, and spoke not a Word to any Person. So numerous were the Spectators, that it was half an Hour past Eleven before he came upon the Scaffold; where it was observed at first, that he seemed to be somewhat surprized, and for a few Moments struck Speechless, but soon after appear'd with great composure of Mind; and after saluting those on the Scaffold, he desir'd *Dr. White*, late Bishop of *Peterborough*, to pray with him: Which being over, he thank'd the Sheriffs for their Civilities, and deliver'd them a Paper, desiring them to do him that Justice, to give it the King. He then prayed again, and having forgiven the Executioner, prepar'd himself for the Block, and, the Sign being given, the Executioner, at one Blow, sever'd his Head from his Body; which was brought in a Horse to one *Mr. Metcalfs*, an Upholsterer, at the *Helmet* in *Fleet-street*, and thence, that Night, privately Interred in the Church of *St. Martins in the Fields*. The Sheriffs, according to his Desire, delivered the Paper to the King, which is as follows.

Speaking nor Writing was never my Talent; I shall therefore give a very Short but Faithful Account, first, of my Religion; and next, what I suffer most innocently for, to avoid the Calumnies I may reasonably expect  
my



my Enemies will cast upon me when dead, since they have most falsely and maliciously aspers'd me whilst under my Misfortunes.

As for my *Religion*, I was brought up in the Church of *England*, as it is establish'd by Law, and have ever profess'd it; tho' I confess I have been an unworthy Member of it, in not living up to the strict and excellent Rules thereof, for which I take Shame to my self, and humbly ask Forgiveness of GOD. I come now to dye in that Communion, trusting, as an humble and hearty Penitent, to be receiv'd by the Mercy of God, through the Merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour.

My *Religion* taught me my *Loyalty*, which, I bless God, is untainted: And I have ever endeavour'd, in the station wherein I have been placed, to the utmost of my power, to support the Crown of *England* in the True and Lineal Course of Descent, without interruption.

As for what I am now to dye; I call God to witness, I went not to that Meeting in *Leaden-hall-street* with any such intention, as to invite King *James* by Force to invade this Nation; nor was I my self provided with either Horse or Arms, or engag'd for any number of Men, or gave particular Consent for any such Invasion, as is most falsely Sworn against me.

I do also declare, in the Presence of God, That I knew nothing of King *James's* coming to *Calais*, nor of any Invasion intended from thence, till it was publickly known, And the only Notion I had that something might be attempted, was from the *Thou'ou* Fleet coming to *Brest*.

I also call God to witness, that I receiv'd the Knowledge of what is contain'd in those Papers that I gave to a French Man that came to me in the *Tower*, both from Letters and Messages that came from *France*; and he told me, when I read them to him, That the prince of *Orange* had been acquainted with most of those things before.

I might have expected Mercy from that Prince, because I was instrumental in saving his Life: For when about the year 1695, an Attempt form'd against him came to my knowledge, I did, partly by Dissuasions and partly by Delays, prevent that design; which, I suppose, was the Reason that this villanous Project was concealed from me.

If there be any Persons whom I have injured in Word or  
Dead,

I heartily beg their Pardon, and beg of God to pardon those who have injured me, particularly those who with great Zeal have sought my Life, and brought the Guilt of Innocent Blood upon this Nation, no Treason being proved against me.

I return my most hearty Thanks to those Noble and Worthy Persons who gave me their Assistance, by opposing the Bill of Attainder, without which it had been impossible I could have fallen under the Sentence of Death: God bless them and their Posterity, tho I am fully satisfied they pleaded their own cause while they defended mine.

I pray God to bless my true and lawful Sovereign King James, the Queen, and the Prince of Wales, and restore him and his Posterity to this Throne again, for the Peace and Prosperity of this Nation, which is impossible to prosper till the Government is settled upon a right Foot.

*And now, O GOD, I do, with all humble Devotion, commend my Soul into thy Hands, the great Maker and Preserver of Men, and Lover of Souls, beseeching thee, that it may be acceptable and precious in thy Sight, through the Merits of my Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.*

I shall wave making any Reflections on his last Paper of Sir John's, for fear I should be thought partial, altho' perhaps there is something in it of a more harden'd Assurance and Jacobite strain, than hath been observ'd in the former Martyrs to this same Bloody and Hellish Cause.

It would be very well, if ambitious turbulent Spirits, by Sir John's Fate, would learn, not to be over active in matters of Blood: Fame reports that Sir John was very active in promoting the Act of Attainder against the Duke of Monmouth, and put himself forward to carry



it up to the House of Lords; if so, it  
seems to be a Divine Return,

— *Nec lex est justior ulla  
Quam necis artifices arte perire sua*

Two parallel Instances I will insert out of our English Writers; John Earl of Exeter was the contriver of the Death of Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester; The Duke was arrested in the lower Court of the Castle of Paris, in the same place was John Holland afterwards Beheaded for a Conspiracy; *Weaver*, pag. 637.

*Cromwell*, Earl of Essex, was condemned and Beheaded; and never brought to an Answer; A manner of proceeding of which, our Chronicles and Annals report, he was the contriver; see *Weaver*, p. 507.

*In quo quis peccat, in eodem puniatur.*

Agreeable unto the Crimes,  
The Punishments are oftentimes:

To conclude, There has been something worse than ordinary, for some Centuries of Years, included in the Name of Jacobite; *Philippe Mornay*, Lord du Plessie, in his *Mystery of Iniquity*, says, That Henry the Emperor was poyson'd in the Sacramental Cup by a Jacobite Fryer;





